



DONNA FRYE
CITY COUNCILMEMBER -- DISTRICT 6

CARL DEMAIO
CITY COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT -- DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2008

TO: City Council

FROM: Councilmember Donna Frye

Councilmember-Elect Carl DeMaio

RE: Council Governance Study Group Update

As you know we have been convening a number of discussion sessions across the city to solicit public input into ways to reform the policies and procedures of the City Council. We hope that these sessions will not only educate the public on how their city government currently operates, but will generate ideas for how we can reposition the City Council as a more open and effective legislative body.

We are pleased to announce that we have scheduled a Town Hall Dialogue for the evening of September 10 at the Scripps Ranch Library. We are attaching the flier for the event and will be sending an electronic version to your office.

We hope you will help promote this opportunity to solicit ideas from the public—as well as consider attending the Dialogue yourself. City Council candidates Phil Thalheimer, Sherri Lightner and Marti Emerald have already confirmed their participation.

In addition to the public Town Hall Dialogue, we are meeting with various individuals and small groups with an expertise in legislative management, budget and appropriations processes, parliamentary procedure, government oversight, etc. We are

compiling a laundry list of suggestions from these meetings. As requested in our June 13 memorandum, we look forward to hearing your suggestions and ideas as well.

Our goal is to compile a laundry list of possible reforms by mid-October. To solicit public input on these possible reforms, we propose to hold two working sessions where all members of the City Council would be invited to participate. To comply with Brown Act requirements, these meetings will be publicly noticed in the event that a majority of Council members participate.

Session 1: Legislative/Budget Process and Presiding Officers/Council Structure

Friday, October 17, 9:00am-noon

City Hall, 12th Floor Committee Hearing Room

Session 2: Open Government and Council Oversight

Thursday, October 30, 4:30-6:30pm

City Hall, 12th Floor Committee Hearing Room

We hope to have our report completed by November 10, 2008 and look forward to seeing the proposed improvements discussed and acted upon on December 9, 2008.

As we noted at the launch of the project, we truly believe that the City Council must evolve its internal processes and procedures to complete the transition to a Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government and become a more constructive partner in the financial recovery of our city government. We look forward to your participation and input in this project.

CC: Mayor Jerry Sanders
City Attorney Michael Aguirre
Independent Budget Analyst
City Council Candidates Districts 1, 3, and 7
City Attorney Candidate Jan Goldsmith



Councilmember Donna Frye and Councilmember-Elect Carl DeMaio

Invite You to a Public "Town Hall" Dialogue on Reforming the San Diego City Council

**Wednesday, September 10
6:00-8:00pm**

Scripps Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive

How can the Council provide better oversight of our tax dollars?

How can the Council enhance transparency and restore public trust?

What is the proper role of the Council in a Strong Mayor form of government?

These and other key questions are the focus of a bipartisan initiative that is currently underway at City Hall to reform the rules and policies governing the San Diego City Council.

The public has been frustrated by the infighting, lack of transparency, and financial troubles in recent years at City Hall. Moreover, as the city transitions to the Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government, the City Council has had some difficulty in assuming its new role as an independent legislative body. With a new City Council taking office in December, there is a chance for real change.

The goal of this initiative is to generate ideas that would improve the transparency and effectiveness of the City Council in a Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government. Everything is on the table: from the way the Council conducts its business and manages legislation to how the Council holds its meetings and interacts with the public.

This is a key opportunity for the public to let their feelings be known on how they expect a new City Council should operate to recover the city's financial health and restore public trust and confidence in their city leaders.

Several City Councilmembers and City Council candidates will be on hand to directly hear from the public. In addition, ideas and suggestions from the initiative will be presented to the new City Council when it convenes after the November election.

Let your voice be heard...and share your ideas!

For more information, contact David Flaherty at 619-481-4278